

Message Text

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SUBJECT: VISIT TO SPANISH WAR COLLEGE (CESEDEN)

REF: (A) USNATO 4065 DTG 252037Z MAY 77, (B) USNATO 3183
DTG 121918Z MAY 77

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING BRIEFING OF MEMBERS OF CESEDEN AND OTHER SPANISH OFFICIALS BY USNATO OFFICERS ON ASPECTS OF NATO DURING JUNE 6-8 VISIT TO MADRID, WE HAVE SOUGHT TO DISCERN FROM PATTERN OF QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS THE MAIN THREADS OF SPANISH VIEWS THAT WE HAVE INDICATED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. THE BRIEFINGS (REF B) FOCUSED ON MILITARY ASPECTS OF THE ALLIANCE. PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF RESULTING QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS INDICATED THAT THE SPANISH PARTICIPANTS SAW SPAIN'S ACCESSION TO NATO AS PROBABLE. THEY ALSO REFLECTED SEVERAL CONCERNS, OF WHICH THE MOST IMPORTANT WERE: (1) THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND MILITARY ADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP FOR SPAIN; (2) SPANISH PROBLEMS IN NORTH AFRICA AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO THE NATO PICTURE; (3) MONETARY OUT-
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LAYS THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED; AND (4) NATO'S REQUIREMENTS OF SPAIN, IN TERMS OF MILITARY AND POLITICAL COMMITMENTS.

2. WE BELIEVE THE SPANISH PARTICIPANTS WERE CLEARLY CONCERNED ABOUT NATO'S "RIGID" TREATY AREA AND THE IMPACT IT WOULD HAVE ON SPANISH RELATIONS WITH NORTH AFRICAN STATES AND ON THE PROTECTION OF LOC'S FOR ENERGY SUPPLIES. THIS

CONCERN COULD PRESENT PROBLEMS ALSO TO OUR NATO ALLIES AS THEY BECOME INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THE SPECIAL SPANISH CONCERNS NOT NECESSARILY SHARED BY MOST OTHER ALLIES, OR SEEN BY THE OTHER ALLIES AS CLEARLY OUTSIDE NATO'S COMPETENCE. ONE SPANISH OFFICER NOTED THAT "OF COURSE, SPAIN WOULD NOT SEND A DIVISION TO THE CENTRAL FRONT, THUS WHAT IS SPAIN'S MILITARY ROLE?" THIS HIGHLIGHTS ANOTHER ASPECT OF SPANISH CONCERN THAT POTENTIALLY COULD BE AN ALLIED CONCERN AS WELL.

3. ON LOGISTICS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND BUDGETS, THE AUDIENCE WAS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT JOINING AND OPERATING COSTS. THEY WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM, NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND CIVIL AND MILITARY BUDGET ALLOCATIONS. THEY WANTED TO KNOW IF SPAIN WOULD BECOME THE LOGISTICS PIPELINE (AND TRAINING GROUND) FOR NATO. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE CENTRAL THEME SEEMED TO BE "WHAT DO WE GET IN RETURN?"

4. SEVERAL QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON CONSULTATION PROCESSES, BOTH DAY-TO-DAY AS WELL AS IN CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR MATTERS. WE BELIEVE THAT THESE CONCERN CAN BE ANSWERED AS THE SPANISH GAIN MORE INFORMATION ON NATO PROGRAMS AND PROCEDURES.

5. THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE BRIEFINGS AND CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS, THE BRIEFING TEAM SENSED THAT THE SPANISH MAY HAVE AN OVERLY OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF THE VERY REAL DIFFICULTIES THAT REMAIN AND MUST BE RESOLVED BEFORE SPAIN CONFIDENTIAL

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WILL BE WELCOMED INTO NATO BY ALL THE ALLIES. SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS INDICATED THEIR BELIEF THAT AFTER THE ELECTION IT WOULD BE CLEAR SAILING, WITH THE TIMETABLE DEPENDENT PRINCIPALLY ON THE SPANISH. AT A LUNCHEON, MR. JUAN DURAN (DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR NORTH AMERICAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS) SAID THAT THE ONLY OBSTACLE HE SAW WAS SPAIN'S DESIRE TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THE EEC PRIOR TO ACCESSION TO NATO. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, SPAIN EVENTUALLY WOULD OPT FOR NATO MEMBERSHIP FIRST.

6. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE IN ANY WAY WE CAN TO FUTURE PROGRAMS THAT EMBASSY MADRID MAY ARRANGE. BASED ON THE QUESTIONS ASKED, FOR EXAMPLE, WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE SPANISH TO RECEIVE A DETAILED BRIEFING ON THE NATO LOGISTICS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CIVIL AND MILITARY BUDGET PROCESSES, AND WE ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE SUCH A BRIEFING.

7. WE ARE ALSO PREPARING PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS RELATED

TO POTENTIAL "COSTS" AND "BENEFITS" TO SPAIN OF NATO
MEMBERSHIP. WE ANTICIPATE FORWARDING THESE IN THE NEAR
FUTURE IN THE HOPE THAT THEY WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION NOT
READILY AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY MADRID.STREATROR

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